



June 6, 2011

Submitted by Email awlaputz@waterboards.ca.gov

Pamela Creedon
Executive Officer
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Re: Comments on Short-Term Renewal of the Coalition Group Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges From Irrigated Lands

Dear Ms. Creedon:

California Citrus Mutual (CCM) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed resolution for the Short-Term Renewal of the Coalition Group Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges From Irrigated Lands (Short-Term Renewal). Accordingly, we submit the following comments.

Extension of the Waiver For 24 Months

We support the Short-Term Renewal for 24 months. The originally proposed extension period of twelve months is too short for such an extensive and labor-intensive undertaking. The two-year extension is necessary to allow the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) sufficient time to work with the various agricultural entities in preparing multiple waste discharge requirements (WDRs) and/or conditional waivers.

Mitigation Measures

CCM agrees with and supported the comments expressed by the agriculture entities in comments submitted on September 27, 2010, Comments on the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Central Valley Long-Term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (LTILRP), and we are also concerned with some of the mitigation measures that are now being incorporated into the Short-Term Renewal. The mitigation requirements are imposed based on very broadly assumed potential effects, without any analysis of the actual likely effects of a short-term program or of the high variability in what actions will be implemented in separate geographic areas. Additionally, the mitigation measures cannot be legally imposed in all cases, and therefore should not have been included in the Final EIR, or here.

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California Citrus Mutual is in agreement with the comments submitted by the agriculture entities, dated June 6, 2011 and we share the concerns and positions stated in those comments.

Technical Reports

As proposed, the Technical Report requirement is confusing because it establishes a deadline for such reports that is the same for dischargers as well as a Coalition group. Also, as a practical matter, a Coalition group may not know if a discharger has already sent a Technical Report to the Regional Board. To avoid confusion and duplication of effort, we recommend that the Technical Report requirement be amended as follows:

8. Dischargers shall submit a Mitigation Monitoring Report by 1 April 2013 to the Regional Water Board. A Coalition group representing the Discharger should submit a Mitigation Monitoring Report in lieu of the Discharger. The Mitigation Monitoring Report shall include information on the implementation of CEQA Mitigation Measures described in section F below, ~~Any individual irrigated agricultural operator required to mitigate a potential adverse environmental impact, as described in Section F, shall submit the following information to the Coalition in timely fashion to allow the Coalition to report to the Central Valley Water Board by 1 April 2013, including the~~ mitigation measure implemented, identified potential impact the mitigation measure addressed, location of the mitigation measure [parcel number, county], and any steps taken to monitor the ongoing success of the measure. In lieu of submitting a Mitigation and Monitoring Report to the Regional Water Board by 1 April 2013, the discharger may submit the information to the discharger's applicable coalition group, if any, by 1 February 2013, and the Coalition group shall then report the information to the Regional Water Board by 1 April 2013. A coalition group is not responsible for submitting information that is not sent to them directly by the 1 February 2013 deadline.

Sincerely,

Bob Blakely
Director of Industry Relations